

Rolfe Park Trails

Access to the trails:

There are no clear access points, but the trails can be found from the following areas.

1. Follow Penacook Street almost to the base of a hill where the brook crosses under Penacook Street. The trail starts on the west side of the street and follows the brook.
2. As you turn into the driveway of the Merrimack Valley High School, there is a patch of woods directly in front of you which serves as a trail access.
3. The third access point is from the back parking lot of the high school. Head south to the edge of the tree line, then follow the tree line to your left until you find the trail.

The trails:

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour

Distance: about 1 mile total

These trails are not for the faint of heart. Some of the areas are very flat while others areas are quite steep. The most interesting trail is off Penacook Street along the brook. Because of the sensitive sandy slopes and highly erosive nature of the soil, we ask that mountain bikes not be used on these trails. Your cooperation is appreciated.

History:

Abial Walker Rolfe donated the land in 1920, "to be used for a Park, Playground, and Athletic Field." He stated that this donation was "for the moral, physical, and social welfare of all, especially the younger element in the community."

The Rolfe family had much to do with the development of Concord. Henry Rolfe was the first town moderator. Benjamin, his son, born in 1710, was one of the first town clerks. The family purchased hundreds of acres of land in the Penacook area from 1736-1806. Around 1770, Nathaniel Rolfe built a house off Penacook Street. In Penacook, Abial's grandfather Henry and father Nathaniel were born. In 1866, Abial and his brother Charles formed the mill C.M. & A.W. Rolfe, which ran until 1940 and later

became the basis of Riverside Millwork Co. (Rivco).

Another notable member of the Rolfe family was Robert Abial Rolfe, better known as "Red" Rolfe, the New York Yankees' all-time great at third base. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1931, and in the 1950's became the Director of Athletics there.



Concord Conservation Commission
225-8515

Map 6

Concord Trail System

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